

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DIWY-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /079 W
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R 091105Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2227
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: HUSAK SPEAKS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

1. ON MARCH 7 PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CP GUSTAV
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HUSAK, WHILE ADDRESSING A DELEGATION OF WOMEN ON THE OCCASION
OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, POINTEDLY REFERRED TO THE CURRENT
EAST-WEST DEBATE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. HE REFERRED TO "THE USE OF
THE SLOGAN 'STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS'" BY "BOURGEOIS PROPAGANDA
AND EVEN SOME REPRESENTATIVES OF BOURGEOIS COUNTRIES" AS "UNHEARD
OF HYPROCRISY." TO GIVE THIS CAMPAIGN A SEMBLANCE OF CREDIBILITY, HE
CONTINUED, WESTERN COUNTRIES SEEK OUT "SORRY LITTLE FIGURES IN

THIS AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES," BUT THOSE WHO "SERVE THIS PURPOSE HAVE ALWAYS ENDDZD AND WILL END IN THE DUST HEAP OF HISTORY."

2. HUSAK SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN IS TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRIS IN THE WEST, TYPIFIED BY MASS UNEMPLOYMENT AND OPPRESSION AND DISCRIMINATION OF ALL KINDS. CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL GLADLY JOIN IN ANY STRUGGLE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION, COLONIALISM, OR NEOCOLONIALISM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, BUT IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, BASIC CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN CREATED THAT PRECLUDE OPPRESSION IN ANY FORM, HE

HE ADDED. IN OTHER WORDS, HUSAK IS CLAIMING THAT HIS REGIME HAS A PERFECT RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS.

3. COMMENT: HUSAK'S REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE ANY MENTION OF CHARTER 77, REPRESENTS AN EFFORT TO TAKE THE "HIGH ROAD" APPROACH TO DISSIDENTS BY DISMISSING THEM AS SORRY FIGURES UNWORTHY OF ANY REAL CONCERN BY THE REGIME. HE APPARENTLY FELT NO NEED TO INVOKE THE CURRENT FAVORITE CLICHE OF "INTERFERNECE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS." THE "LOW ROAD" APPROACH WAS, HOWEVER, AMPLY REPRESENTED IN CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA THE SAM DAY IN PERSONAL ATTACKS ON CHARTER ACTIVISTS.

4. CYNICS MIGHT HAVE NOTED THAT AT THE WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS THE REGIME WAS REPRESENTED - AND COULD BE REPRESENTED - BY ONLY ONE FEMALE MEMBER OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, MARIE KABRHELOVA, A PARTY SECRETARIAN MEMBER AND HEAD OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION. IT MIGHT BE WORTH KEEPING IN MIND FOR BELGRADE THAT IN MOST IF NOT ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE WP COUNTRIES, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN SEEMS TO HAVE A DEFINITE UPPER LIMIT.
BYRNE

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